

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, last year we witnessed the near collapse of our financial system. According to one estimate, the United States lost an estimated \$8.3 trillion of wealth in 2008. Right now, more than 15 million Americans are unemployed and looking for work. Families and businesses continue to struggle as our economy slowly recovers. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Hardworking Americans on Main Street have been the victim of Wall Street's excess and greed and also of Washington's failure to hold investors accountable. Our constituents, the American people, deserve better. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 will rein in risky behavior on Wall Street and create powerful protections for middle class families.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for middle class families and protect their financial future by supporting H.R. 4173.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. This year, for Christmas, my wife, Jan, and I took out three loans for our three children, \$40,000 each. Of course, since my youngest daughter isn't old enough to get a loan, we had to sign for it, but the bank assured us she'd have to pay it all the same. Then with the \$120,000 in new-found credit, Jan and I went on a spending spree, leaving our children to repay \$40,000 each. Great, huh?

Of course this story isn't literally true. No parent would dream of saddling their children with \$40,000 in debt. No parent would do that, but right now the estimated share of the national debt is \$40,000 per American man, woman, and child; and that debt is just as real.

That's why I've cosponsored a resolution to require any increase in the statutory debt limit be considered as a stand-alone bill and passed by a supermajority of Congress. If we're not going to cut up the government's credit card, then let's make it harder to get new cards when we max the old one out.

ONE PERSON CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Dr. Jim Young, on his impact on the health care reform debate. Earlier this year, Jim gave me a copy of the book, "Overtreated," by Shannon Brownlee. This book, and Jim's encouragement, opened my eyes to the shortcomings of our country's reimbursement model, a fee-for-services model,

and the need to go to a health care delivery system that rewards high-quality, low-cost patient outcomes.

After months of negotiations, I'm proud we were able to secure language in the House bill to finally achieve a quality-based reimbursement model. Jim has been practicing family medicine in Iowa since 1973, following his service in the United States Navy. He's a valuable adviser and friend, and his insights and inspiration helped improve the House Health Care Reform bill to better serve all America. His spirit and his example show what one person can do to change the course of history.

□ 1015

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AWARDED TO GEORGE OHLMAN

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 28, in Franktown, Colorado, I was privileged to present George Ohlman with his Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Ohlman, 88 years old, was a pilot and flight leader in the famed "Thunder Bums" fighter squadron during World War II flying combat missions over Europe in P-47 Thunderbolts. Ohlman flew over 100 combat missions in World War II. Mr. Ohlman was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his—and I quote from the award record—"extraordinary leadership and superior flying ability."

On September 3, 1944, near Mons, Belgium, then-Lieutenant Ohlman led his wingman in a strafing run on enemy positions. His aircraft received several direct hits, but he nevertheless continued the attack until out of ammunition. Due to the chaos and confusion prevalent during war, he never actually received the medal. Rectifying that oversight last month was a great honor for me.

OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK-PITTS AMENDMENT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to show opposition to the Stupak-Pitts amendment and its new limitation on women's reproductive rights. The House bill already had language that reflects current law prohibiting funds from being used for abortion while allowing women to use their own money to buy the coverage that they need.

The Stupak-Pitts amendment goes beyond the Hyde amendment. It sets new precedent for restricting women's rights and eliminating coverage for an important and legal health service that millions of women currently have.

That's why I will join with my colleagues to vote against any final health reform bill if it contains the Stupak-Pitts amendment.

LESSONS FROM AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from a trip to Afghanistan to assess the conditions on the ground. I want to update my colleagues on what I saw.

First of all, our military leadership has expressed confidence in our ability to achieve victory, and they need the additional troops promised by President Obama. The bigger problem lies with Afghanistan itself.

President Karzai must do the following to ensure success in Afghanistan: end the corruption, provide credible Afghan security forces, eliminate the illicit drug production, and grow the Afghan economy. These conditions are paramount to achieving victory when the U.S. military departs the country. And finally, Pakistan has to step up and stop serving as a safe harbor for terrorist insurgents.

The morale of our troops are high, and our commanders on the ground are confident that we can win if Afghanistan and Pakistan achieve these goals. None of these goals are easy, but they are crucial to the success of the security of Afghanistan.

OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK-PITTS AMENDMENT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my constituents who called, faxed, emailed me in strong opposition to the Stupak-Pitts language and its inclusion in health care reform.

The grand myth in this debate is that the Stupak amendment is simply an extension of current law, which prohibits the use of Federal funds for abortions except in the case of rape or incest or to protect the life of a mother. It is not current law. It would be the largest restriction on abortion access since Roe v. Wade—preventing women from using private dollars to purchase coverage for a legal medical service.

A recent George Washington School of Public Health study warns that the Stupak language will reduce access to women who already have it by encouraging insurers to "drop coverage in all markets." That is not the status quo.

The Stupak-Pitts language is unfair, unnecessary, and unwise. The Senate rightly rejected it last night. It cannot be part of health care reform. Women will not be forced back to back alleys.

MEDICARE CUTS WOULD IMPACT OUR SENIORS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House